Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda):* May I know whether it is suitable for diabetic patients ?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* The Chief Medical Officer may be better able to answer that question.

POST-WAR PROBLEMS

43. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken for meeting the Post-War Problems of the State?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The question is engaging the attention of the Government.

44. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether any steps are being taken to confront the Post-War Problems of the State;

(*b*) whether the Government have bestowed its mind on the question as to what will be those problems?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The questions are engaging the attention of the Government.

FREE COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION BILL

45. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) had any non-official member of the Council sought for sanction from the Government for introducing a Free Compulsory Primary Education Bill in the Council;

(*b*) was sanction accorded; if not why not?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No; because it was considered that compulsion in the matter of primary education was not called for at present.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, what is the per centage of literacy according to the 1941 census ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Sir, exact figures are not available. I have not got the figures with me. I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I would ask the Government, Sir, whether these questions have not been sent as long as 19th Mithunam 1118, regarding this and two other subjects, similar subjects, with a request that these questions may be kindly answered together, the percentage of literacy in the last census, the percentage of literacy in the 1931 census, the percentage of adult illiteracy in the State, all these questions were sent with the request that these may be answered together. Had not these questions been sent as early as 19th Mithunam ? Should not the Government have collected the statistics ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The Hon'ble Member wanted this question to be answered before the Education Budget came up for discussion, and so this question was put for today. This question refers more to the refusal of sanction to introduce the bill; it was not so much about statistics and things like that. Therefore, I thought there would be no objection to answer that question separately.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* We appreciate the spirit in which the thing is taken up by the Government. In view of the answer to question (*b*) whether sanction was accorded and if not, why not, the answer is given "No; because it was considered that compulsion in the matter of primary education was not called for at present." I shall establish a clear case that it is called for today, if not much earlier. It was in that connection that I had put these questions. I wanted to show that the reply given by the Government refusing sanction is a reply which could not be expected from the Government of Cochin in such an important question like the introduction of compulsory primary education.

Mr. President : I would remind the Hon'ble Member that this is question time and remarks should take the form of questions.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Yes, Sir. What is the per centage of literacy according to the 1931 Census Report ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I said I want notice for these figures. If the Hon'ble Member's intention is to elicit an answer to the effect that there is no increase in literacy in the State, that is not so. There has been an increase in literacy as

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